

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 53

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately, for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24, 2005

Mr. HATCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately, for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. COMBINED HYDROCARBON LEASING.**

4       (a) SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING LEASING.—  
5       Section 17(b)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.  
6       226(b)(2)) is amended—

7               (1) by inserting “(A)” after “(2)”; and

8               (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(B) The Secretary may issue under this Act for the  
2 same area, separately—

3 “(i) a lease for exploration for and extraction of  
4 tar sand; and

5 “(ii) a lease for exploration for and development  
6 of oil and gas.

7 “(C) A lease issued under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall  
8 not be further subject to the Combined Hydrocarbon Leas-  
9 ing Act of 1981 (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

10 “(D) A lease issued for tar sand shall be issued using  
11 the same bidding process, annual rental, and posting pe-  
12 riod as a lease issued for oil and gas, except that the min-  
13 imum acceptable bid required for a lease issued for tar  
14 sand shall be \$2 per acre.

15 “(E) The Secretary may waive, suspend, or alter any  
16 requirement under section 26 that a permittee under a  
17 permit authorizing prospecting for tar sand must exercise  
18 due diligence, to promote any resource covered by a com-  
19 bined hydrocarbon lease.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
21 17(b)(1)(B) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.  
22 226(b)(1)(B)) is amended in the second sentence by in-  
23 serting “, subject to paragraph (2)(B),” after “the Sec-  
24 retary”.

1       (c) REGULATIONS.—Within 45 days after the date of  
2 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior  
3 shall issue final regulations to implement this section.

